



Chance the Fox is a frequent visitor from the Alaska Zoo

# Wildlands Update for July

## General Recreation Notes

With fires burning around the state, keep informed of road closures and smoke at <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/>. The long days of summer also mean increased highway accidents. Please be careful when recreating that you do not forget the time and end up driving while sleepy or otherwise impaired. Young wildlife and other visitors may be crossing roads. Bears are frequenting salmon streams and moose have young calves in tow. Please wear personal flotation devices while on the water. Be prepared for weather changes and wear sunscreen when appropriate. To view the weather at your destination, check the web cams at <http://akweathercams.faa.gov/allcams.php>.

## Road Closures:

The Glenn Highway will be closed from Milepost 92-97 from midnight to 6:00am weekdays throughout the summer. The Denali Highway remains in poor condition with loose gravel and potholes. Expect other delays as there is road construction and repair on all major highways. Please build in time for delays. For updated road conditions throughout the state, visit <http://511.alaska.gov/> or dial 511 in Alaska, (866) 282-7577 outside Alaska.

## Alaska State Parks

Day Use Passes are available at REI, AMH, the Sportsman's Warehouse, and the AAPLIC. Call (907) 345-5014 for more information.

### Chugach State Park:

There is currently increased bear activity in Eklutna associated with fish

runs. Based on last year's bear activity at Bird Creek, anglers at that location should be familiar with bear safety rules and regulations. The Crow Pass Trail is in poor condition at Heidi's Knob and a bridge is underwater at one of the creeks at Twin Falls (6/28). For current information please call (907) 345-5014.

### Matsu Area State Parks

Independence Mine: The road over Hatcher pass is now open and will remain so until snowfall closes it (usually in late September). Call (907) 745-8950 for information.

Nancy Lake State Recreation Area: For current information call (907) 495-6273.

**Denali State Park:** There is currently no heavy bear activity, though Upper Troublesome Creek remains closed. There are various construction projects ongoing in the Byers Lake area and on Goldman Trail, but they remain open to the public. For more information about Matsu Area State Parks, call (907) 745-3975.

### Kenai Peninsula Parks

The recent fire in Caribou Hills has had no impact on state parks in the area.

Kachemak Bay: Trails are rough, with steep grades in places. It is advisable to add 1/3 to your average hiking time. The 250-foot hand-operated Grewingk Creek Tram is open, however it is strenuous to operate with one person (use two). A listing of trails openings and closings are available at <http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/asp/trailcondition.htm> or call (907) 262-5581.

Caines Head: The trail to the park remains damaged from last year's flooding, but the Derby Cove and Callisto cabins remain open for rental. See comments on the trail at <http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/cabins/kenai.htm>

## Alaska Department of Fish and Game

The Kenai Peninsula Wildlife Viewing Guide is now available on-line at [http://www.wildlife.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=alaska\\_guide.main](http://www.wildlife.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=alaska_guide.main) or call (907) 465-5157. Beluga whales will be following spawning salmon up Turnagain Arm. Brown and black bears will be at streams with spawning salmon. Waterfowl and shorebirds have hatched and are feeding with their parents. Most young songbirds have fledged and swallows are gathering to leave Southcentral. Bison can be seen at Mile 242 on the Richardson Highway.

## Bureau of Land Management

New special rules regarding the Gulkana National Wild River can be found at <http://www.blm.gov/> Click on the map of Alaska.

## Some good websites

### Alaska outdoor information:

<http://www.nps.gov/aplic>

### Alaska weather information:

<http://www.arh.noaa.gov/>

### Alaska Volcano Observatory :

<http://www.avo.alaska.edu/>

### Sunrise-Sunset:

<http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data/>

### Road Conditions:

<http://www.dot.state.ak.us/>

## National Park Service

### Kenai Fjords National Park

The information center at the small boat harbor is open daily as is the Exit Glacier Nature Center. Guided hikes to Exit Glacier (1-2 hours) and the Harding Icefield (7-8 hours) are offered daily. Call (907) 224-2125 for more information.

Summer-use cabins (Aialik, Holgate and North Arm) are available for rent from May 25 to September 9. Aialik Bay cabin is closed for maintenance from July 9-27. Reservations can be made for all cabins by calling (907) 271-2737 or in-person at the AAPLIC. For further information, visit the website at

<http://www.nps.gov/kefj>.

### Denali National Park and Preserve

Denali's summer author series continues with *Cultural Resources and the Idea of Wilderness* on July 5th. Road lottery entries (and a non-refundable check for \$10) must be postmarked by July 31st if you want a chance to drive through the park during September 14 – 17. The park is offering a new 12-hour "Kantishna Experience" bus trip this summer. The cost is \$129, plus the park entrance fee; lunch is provided. Bus and campground reservations can still be made on-line, by mail or by fax. For more information, visit the website at <http://www.nps.gov/dena> or call (907) 683-2294. For views of Denali from inside the park go to [www2.nature.nps.gov/air/WebCams/parks/denacam/denacam.cfm](http://www2.nature.nps.gov/air/WebCams/parks/denacam/denacam.cfm).

## Fish and Wildlife Service

### Kenai National Wildlife Refuge

Trails and the canoe route in the refuge are in good condition, but crews are still working to clear downed trees. The refuge contact station at mile 58 on the Sterling Highway is open 10am to 4pm. Special programs this summer include a discovery hike on Fire Ecology and programs at Hidden Lake campground Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm through August 11. Visitor center hours are 8:00am-5:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am-5:00pm on weekends. For more information, please go to <http://kenai.fws.gov/>

## National Forest Service

### Chugach National Forest

The forest has a full slate of activities planned in conjunction with their Centennial celebration. July 19 is the Anchorage *Wild at Heart* celebration at Hilltop; July 20 is the ribbon-cutting at the upgraded Trail River Campground; July 22 Begich-Boggs Visitor Center hosts a *Celebration of Culture and Arts* and July 28 a special program and campground dedication at Childs Glacier. Make plans for the new whistle-stop at Spencer Glacier scheduled to open August 16. Tickets will be available from the Alaska Railroad on First Avenue or at their new kiosk located at the AAPLIC. For more info, call the Glacier Ranger District (907) 783-3242 or the Seward Ranger District (907) 224-3374. For internet updates visit

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach>

## Urban Public Lands

### Municipality of Anchorage and the MatSu Borough

Be bear aware: there have been several bear sightings at Kincaid Park. Local parks and recreation departments have a variety of summer outdoor programs and hiking opportunities for all ages. Check out their websites at <http://www.muni.org/parks/> and <http://www.matsugov.us/RecServices/parks.cfm> Audubon Alaska is offering bird identification at Westchester Lagoon Wed – Friday 8:00-noon and Saturdays 10am-6:00pm.

## Southcentral Visitor Centers

### Eagle River Nature Center

Located at mile 12 of Eagle River Road, ERNC is now open daily 10am-5pm (until 7pm Fridays and Saturdays) but will be closed July 4th. There is a \$5.00 parking fee not covered by the Alaska State Parks day use pass. Check their program schedule at <http://www.ernc.org> or call (907) 694-2108 for more information.

### Campbell Creek Science Center

The visitor center is open Monday through Friday 7:30am-4pm. For more information, call (907) 267-1247 or check the website at <http://www.blm.gov/ak/events.html>

## Begich-Boggs Visitor Center

The visitor center offers a variety of ranger-led hikes including a Portage Pass Hike, Moraine Hike, and Ice Worm Safari. Enjoy the hour-long film *The Greatest Good: A Forest Service Centennial Film* every Saturday through August beginning at 6:30pm. Call (907) 783-2326 for more information or visit the website at [http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach/chugach\\_pages/bbvc.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach/chugach_pages/bbvc.html)

## Alaska Islands and Ocean Visitor Center

The visitor center is open daily 9:00am to 6:00pm. A listing of 2007 summer programs featuring coastal wildlife and phenomenon is available on-line. For more information call (907) 235-6961 or visit

<http://www.islandsandoccean.org/calendar/index.html>.

## Alaska Public Lands Information Centers

The **Downtown Anchorage** location is open 9am-5pm daily. Stop by to enjoy the exhibits and movies. Special 2:00pm programs include a gold-panning demonstration (Mondays), Anchorage Audubon: *Mystery of Migration* (Tuesdays); Alaska SeaLife Center: *Marine Mammals of Alaska* (Wednesdays), a live animal from the Alaska Zoo (Thursdays); *Dog-sledding 101* (Fridays), a live bird with Bird Treatment and Learning Center (Saturdays), and a program on the *Arctic National Wildlife Refuge* (Sundays). Come along for the *Captain Cook walking tour* at 11:00 and 2:30 daily. Call (907) 644-3661 (a new phone number for the visitor center) or go to <http://www.nps.gov/aplic> for more information.

The **Fairbanks** location is daily from 9am-6:00pm. Call (907) 456-0527 for more information on programs and movies.

The **Tok Center** location is open 8:00am to 7:00pm daily. Call (907) 883-5667 for more information or (888) 256-6784 for Alaska Marine Highway reservations.

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